

March 2, 2022

Dear Washington State Building Code Council,

Please vote for the full package of proposed updates to the commercial energy code, thereby investing in a more sustainable, healthier, and equitable future.

Electrifying buildings, using modern, highly efficient equipment, is the only way to ensure that buildings can be powered by renewable energy, which is what is needed to address climate change.

Moving away from natural gas in space and water heating by electrifying them is the only way to achieve the state's requirement to reduce 70 percent of the annual energy consumption from buildings by 2031 compared to a 2006 baseline.

Codes updates that create more opportunities for generating renewable solar energy will allow the energy grid to have energy from safer and healthier sources than fossil fuels. Fossil fuels, such as natural gas, can leak from gas lines and burn or explode and, when burned, can worsen asthma and other respiratory conditions, especially among communities of color. New construction that is all-electric will save money and safeguard health at the same time. An estimated \$462 million dollars in health impacts annually can be attributed to burning fossil fuels in commercial buildings in Washington.

We don't have any time to waste. We need to get our buildings running on 100% clean renewable electricity. With the opportunity to update our building energy codes arising only once every three years, we can't wait until the next update cycle or later to have a shot at this. Please support the full package of proposed Commercial Energy Code updates now!

Thank you,  
Karen Lindquist  
Interfaith Minister  
Interfaith Community Sanctuary  
Seattle, WA